

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, July 1, 2015

Members in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude

Others in Attendance: Christina Hoefsmit, Esq., RI DEM

The meeting came to order at 9:33 a.m.

The first order of business was the review of the draft April 1, 2015 meeting minutes.

After review of the draft April 1, 2015 meeting minutes, Mr. Kurdziel motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.

Per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4), Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session to discuss issues regarding Rhode Island wastewater treatment operators related to possible civil or criminal misconduct. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, and Mr. Desrosiers voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the July 1, 2015 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, and Mr. Desrosiers all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, and Mr. Desrosiers voting in the affirmative.

The next order of business was an application for Grade 1 reciprocity from Mr. Peter Rojas, an employee of Veolia Water in Cranston. Mr. Rojas holds a full Grade 2-M in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Patenaude asked the Board if it could offer Mr. Rojas a Grade 2 license via reciprocity but Board members cited differences in Massachusetts licensing levels as a reason to issue only a Grade 1.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to issue Mr. Rojas a Grade 1 license via reciprocity with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to add Mr. Rojas to the examinee list for the August Grade 2 exams. M. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in the affirmative.

The next order of business was a question posed to Mr. Desrosiers regarding Grade 4 reciprocity. The question related to potential impacts on future reciprocity requests should a RI Grade 3 license

holder with a Grade 7 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts attain a position of assistant superintendent or superintendent. The individual questioned if the Board would negate the passing grade in another jurisdiction if they failed a subsequent attempt at an equivalent grade in Rhode Island. Based on input from legal counsel, the Board determined that because of past practice (allowing individuals to take exams until passed), the Board could in fact not penalize an applicant for reciprocity if they subsequently failed an equivalent exam attempt in Rhode Island.

The next order of business was wastewater course approvals for training hours.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the following courses and hours: RI WARN Tabletop (September 30, 2015) for 6 hours; NEWEA Mattabassett WWTF Tour/Training (June 24, 2015) for 4 hours; NWPCA Clarifier Course by John Esler (May 29, 2015) for 3 hours; the NEWEA Spring Training (June 7-10) for 2 hours/training session (pending confirmation of training length), 2 hours for plant tour, and automatic Tier Two licensure for Wastewater Operator Challenge participants; and EPA CREAT training (May 13, 2015) for 1 hour. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in the affirmative.

In new business, Mr. Desrosiers informed the Board of the first-place finish of the NWPCA Operator Challenge Team. Mr. Patenaude noted

that each participant would receive a letter of commendation from the Board.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn at 10:24. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in the affirmative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.